

* Leaves truncate at base or subcordate, slightly decurrent, middle lobe usually the widest, segments 7-9; petals violet.

(13) *V. SEPTEMLOBA*, LeConte.

* * Leaves decurrent on petiole, flabellately veined at base, segments of nearly equal width, 9-15; petals blue.

(14) *V. PEDATIFIDA*, Don.

B. Spurred petal beardless; cleistogamous flowers subulate; leaves cordate, glabrous; petals pale blue, darker towards the throat.

(15) *V. CUCULLATA*, Ait.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

A PECULIAR VARIETY OF *DROSERA ROTUNDIFOLIA*.

M. L. FERNALD.

IN August, 1904, the marly sphagnous bogs at the mouth of the Grand River, Gaspé County, Quebec, were found by Messrs. J. F. Collins, A. S. Pease, and the writer to be the home of many remarkable plants, among others three *Droseras* which are little known to American botanists. One of the bogs had its open marly spots almost given over to four plants, *Drosera linearis*, Goldie, *D. longifolia*, L. (*D. anglica*, Hudson), *Juncus stygius*, var. *americanus*, Buchenau, and *Pinguicula vulgaris*, L., though other species, there less abundant, were quite at home in the calcic carbonate.¹ On the mossy knolls at the borders of the open marl normal *Drosera rotundifolia* was abundant.

Soon after the exploration of this bog, another, perhaps a mile distant, was visited. On entering the bog a tiny inflorescence was noticed, so strange in appearance that at first sight it was taken to be the unique *Saxifraga stellaris*, var. *comosa* of Mt. Katahdin. Instead, however, the plant proved to be a peculiar dwarf variety of *Drosera rotundifolia* with subcapitate inflorescences of few flowers, the petals colored, and the ovary instead of producing normal capsules, tending to develop into a rosette of glandular foliage-leaves. This tendency was also noted in other floral organs, but it was most apparent in the carpels.

Examination of the bog showed that the anomalous *Drosera* was abundant in the wet portion between the central pond and the higher

¹ An analysis of soil from a similar bog in Aroostook Co., Maine, shows it to contain nearly 96 % of calcic carbonate.

arbor-vitæ forest, occupying an area of perhaps a half acre. Occasional normal plants of *Drosera rotundifolia* were found but these were always taller and coarser and far less abundant than the plant with foliaceous carpels. That this little plant maintains its peculiar character was shown not only by its distribution throughout one end of the bog, but by the shrivelled remnants of similar inflorescences on scapes produced in past years.

Whether the plant reproduces itself by means of the peculiarly developed carpels cannot now be stated. Living material now being studied at the Ames Botanical Laboratory and forming the basis for Dr. Leavitt's notes on page 14 will doubtless demonstrate this point. The plants, however, are not without their own method of abundant reproduction, for many of the specimens showed, springing from the decaying leaf-blades or the injured petioles, young plants such as have been already described by various observers.¹

The dwarf plant perpetuating itself and occupying a considerable area almost to the exclusion of normal *Drosera rotundifolia* may be called

DROSERA ROTUNDIFOLIA, var. **comosa**. Dwarf, the scapes 2 to 8 cm. high: leaves comparatively small, the blades 3 to 7 mm. long: inflorescence 1- to few-flowered, subcapitate: calyx crimson or roseate: petals greenish to crimson, sometimes foliaceous: carpels in maturity developed into green glandular broadly obovate or oblate petioled leaves: other portions of the inflorescence occasionally modified. — Wet boggy margin of a marl-pond, near the mouth of Grand River, Gaspé County, Quebec, August 13, 1904 (*J. F. Collins, M. L. Fernald and A. S. Pease*). Type in Herb. Gray.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

IDENTITY OF PRICKLY LETTUCE.

LYSTER H. DEWEY.

THE earliest authentic records that we have of the presence of prickly lettuce in this country are three specimens collected in 1863 and 1864, in the vicinity of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and now in

¹ See Bull. Torr. Cl. xix. 295; RHODORA, i. 172, pl. 8; 206, pl. 10.